

NSCMP Mission Statement

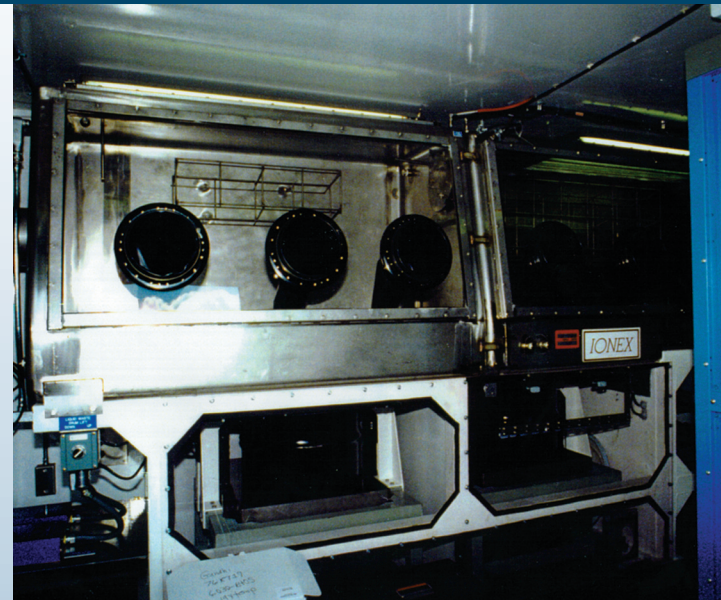
The Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP), which is under the U.S. Army Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization (PMCD), was established to provide centralized management and direction to the Department of Defense for the disposal of non-stockpile chemical materiel in a safe, environmentally sound, and cost-effective manner. Specifically, the Product Manager for Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel is charged with:

- identifying the type and location of chemical warfare materiel requiring destruction
- researching, developing, and testing chemical warfare materiel destruction technologies
- destroying former chemical weapons production facilities and related equipment
- supporting the Chemical Weapons Convention treaty obligations

For more information, please call the Public Outreach and Information Office for the Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization at: (800) 488-0648 or visit our web site at:
www-pmcd.apgea.army.mil



Rapid Response System



RRS

What is the Rapid Response System (RRS)?

The RRS is a transportable treatment system designed to receive, contain, characterize, and treat Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS) recovered at burial sites. CAIS consist of small quantities of chemical agents or industrial chemicals contained in glass ampoules, vials, and bottles. CAIS were once used to train soldiers in the safe handling, identification, and decontamination of chemical agents.

Why was the RRS developed?

The RRS was developed to help the U.S. Army accomplish its mission to dispose of recovered chemical warfare materiel in a safe, environmentally sound manner. The RRS was designed specifically to treat CAIS. Approximately 110,000 CAIS were manufactured and distributed to military installations for the training of soldiers between 1928 and 1969. On-site treatment of chemical warfare materiel minimizes the storage, transportation, and handling of chemical agents prior to final disposal, and as a result reduces the risk to neighboring communities.

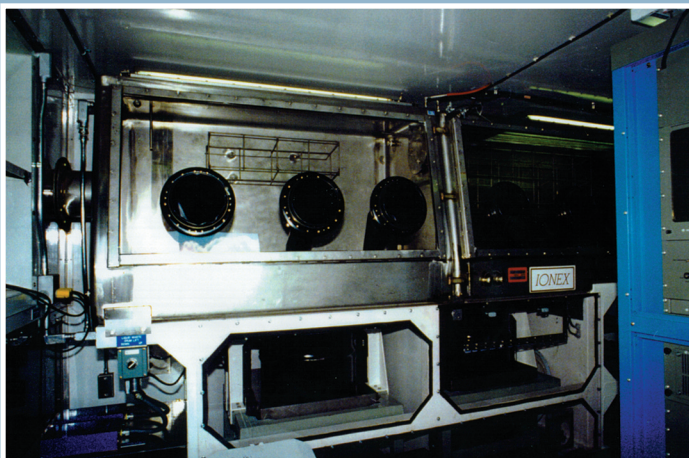


What are the major components of the RRS?

The two major components of the RRS are the Operations Trailer, where the glass containers are processed using a glovebox apparatus, and the Utility Trailer, which provides electrical power for the equipment.

The Operations Trailer houses the equipment used to treat CAIS, including the glovebox. There are three closed stations in the glovebox, in which the Rapid Response System operators can unpack, identify, separate, and treat CAIS components. A Raman Spectrophotometer, which is a non-intrusive device, is used to identify chemical substances in CAIS.

The Utility Trailer carries two generators that provide prime electrical power and backup power. The primary generator allows the Rapid Response System to operate without requiring external electric power. The backup generator is capable of powering critical monitoring and ventilation equipment in the operations trailer if the primary power supply is interrupted.



How does the RRS operate?

1. CAIS items are loaded into the operations trailer and moved into the glovebox where a sealed environment is created.
2. CAIS containers are opened at the unpack station.
3. CAIS chemical agents and industrial chemicals are removed, identified, and separated. Chemical agents include sulfur mustard (HD), nitrogen mustard (HN), and lewisite (L). Industrial chemicals include phosgene, cyanogen, chloride, chloroacetophenone, chloropicrin, triphosgene, and an ester mixture.
4. Chemical agents from the bottles and vials are mixed with decontamination solution at the neutralization station. The industrial chemicals are repackaged for disposal according to current industrial standards. A carbon filtering system is located at the exhaust of the glovebox that filters all process air exiting the device. Air monitoring instruments are also housed inside the operations trailer.
5. Wastes are placed in drums, sampled, and analyzed before they are transported to a permitted waste treatment and disposal facility.

